

ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

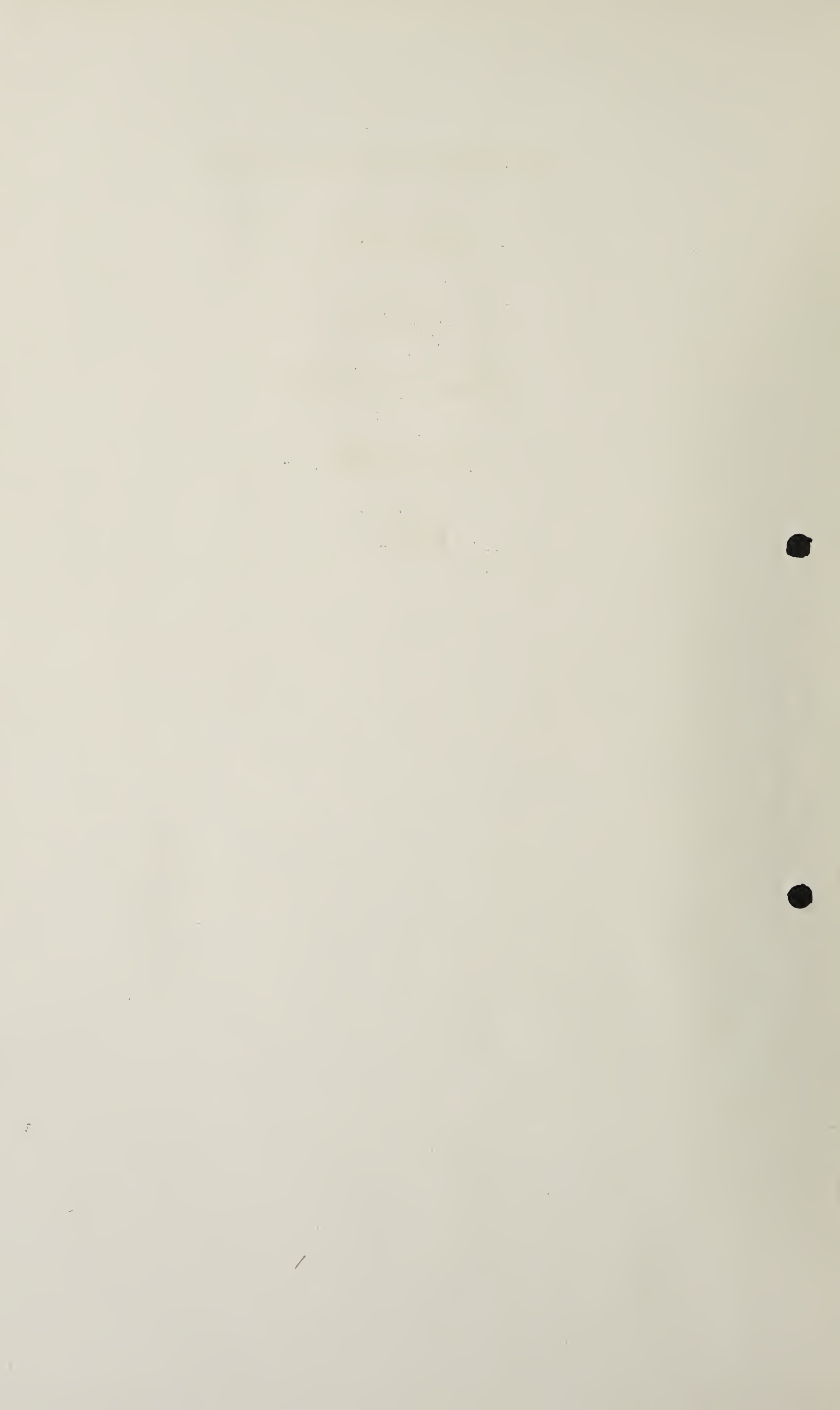
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR

1948



ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, SOUTHERN AREA.

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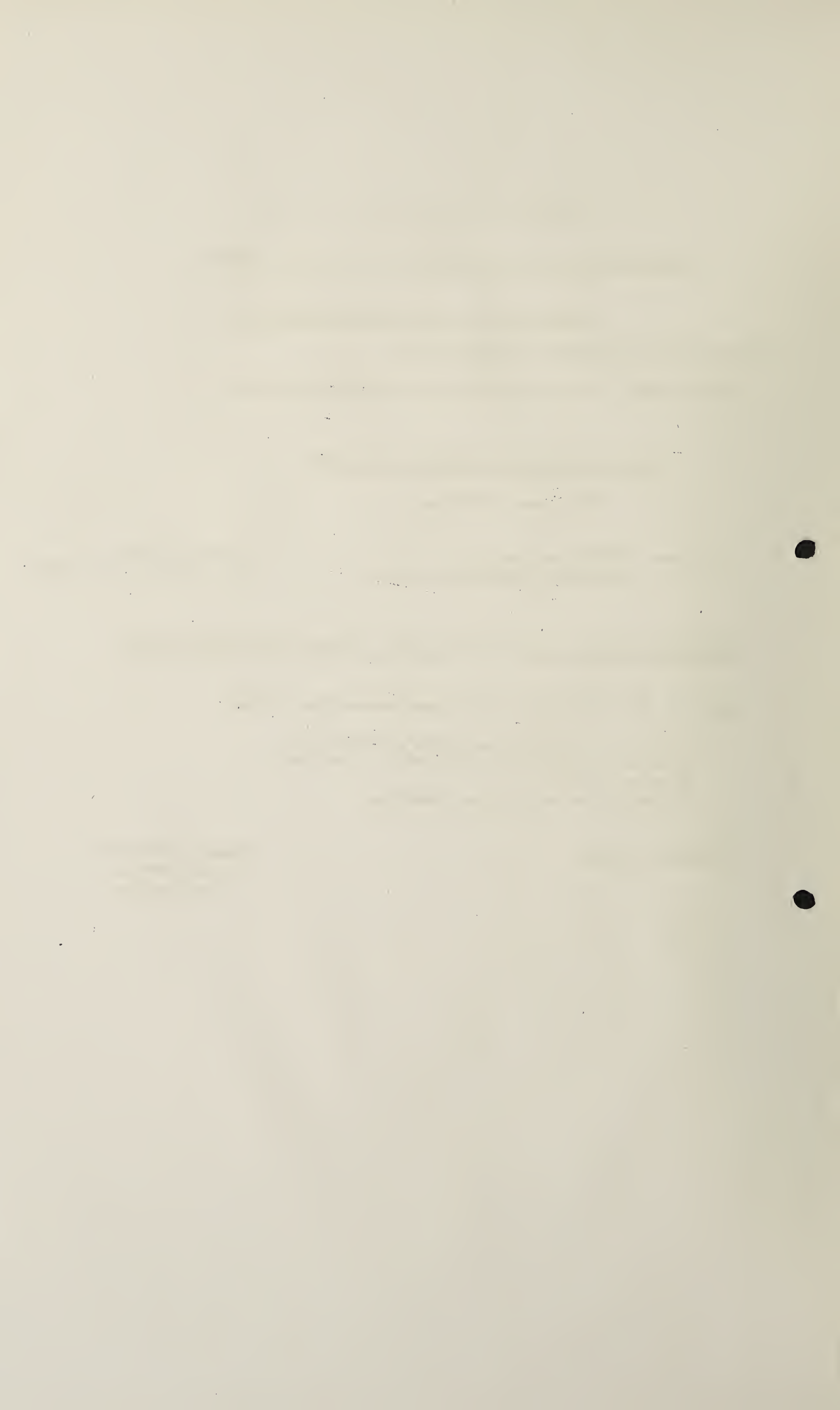
SANITARY INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR & HOUSING DESIGNATED OFFICER:

Mr. R.H. Shaw Batchford, M.R.S.I., M.S.A., A.Ina.M & CY.E.

- (Statutory Sanitary Inspector's Certificate
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Council Chambers,
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ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1948, which contains no special comment inserted on specific instructions of the Council but reports in a general way upon matters having a bearing upon the health of the population.

The report is submitted in compliance with Article 17 subsection 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and in accordance with circular 5/9 of the Ministry of Health.

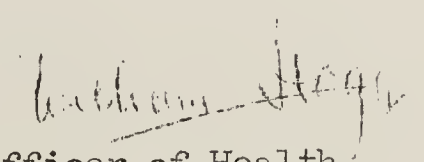
The health of the population was satisfactory, with a live birth rate in excess of the death rate, and a low ~~incidence~~ of infectious disease.

The report also contains a meteorological report on the year 1948, kindly furnished by Mr. F.J. Parsons, Meteorologist in Charge, The Observatory, Ross-on-Wye, to whom I am indebted. I have to acknowledge also assistance most willingly given me in the preparation of this report and in the discharge of my duties throughout the year, by my colleagues, Mr. E. Moses, Clerk to the Council, Mr. C. Caddick, Surveyor, and Mr. R.H. Shaw Batchford, Sanitary Inspector to the Council.

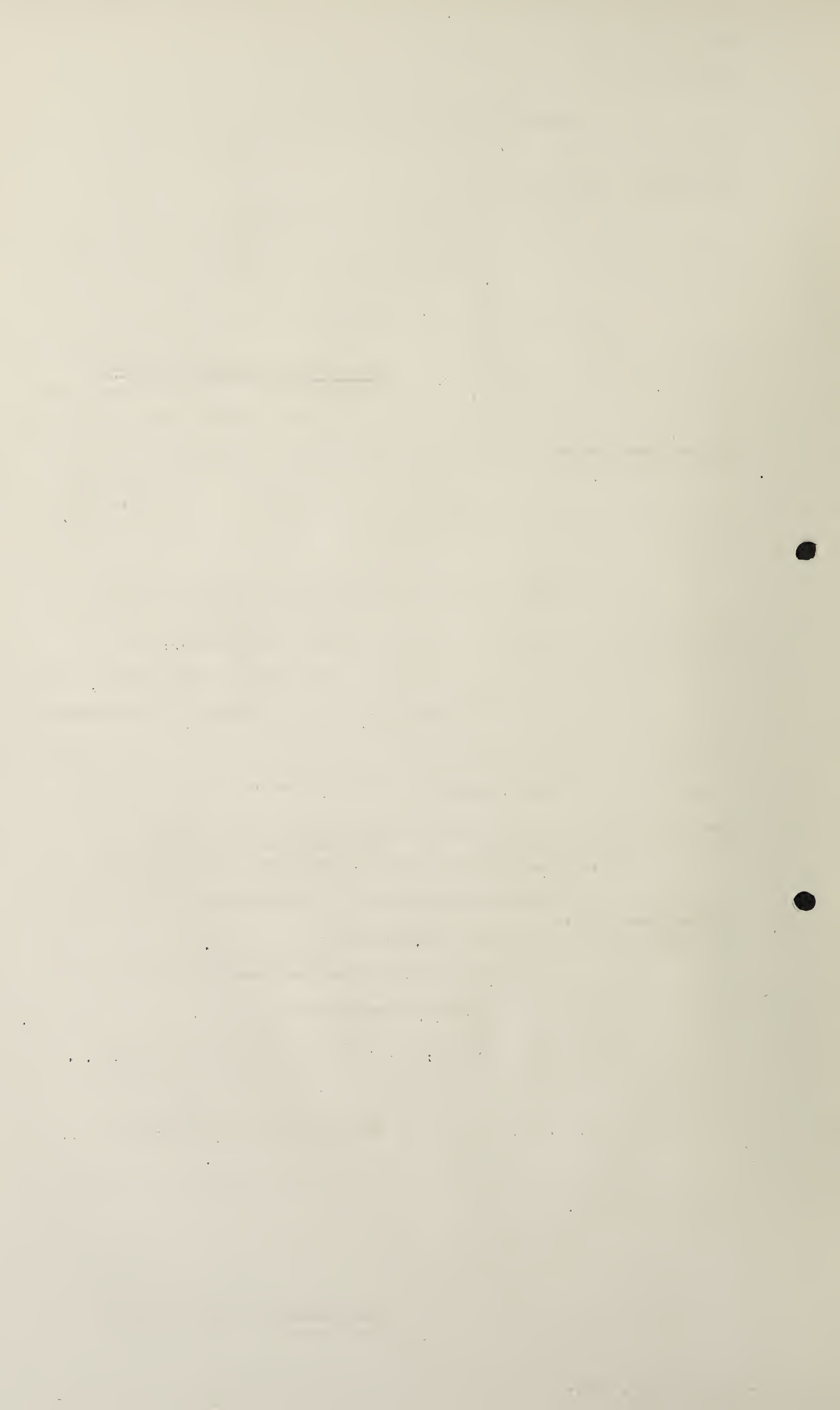
In conclusion, I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the help and support which the Chairman and Members of the Council have given me on every occasion.

I am, Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,


Area Medical Officer of Health

3rd of June, 1949.



SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:-

Area (in acres)	1,004
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	5,180
Number of Inhabited Houses (End of 1948)	1,426
Rateable Value	£51,972
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£126

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:-

<u>Live Births Rate</u> per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	17.6
<u>Still Birth Rate</u> per 1,000 total births (live & still)... ..	21.5
<u>Death Rate</u> per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	12.7

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:-

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000</u> <u>Total Births</u>
Heading No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Heading No. 30 ... Other Maternal Causes	1	10.8

DEATHS RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:-

All infants per 1,000 Live Births	55.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	36.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ...	250.0

The Urban District of Ross-on-Wye forms a small country town in the south of the County of Hereford. It is an old town and is probably best known as a holiday centre for visitors to the lower Wye Valley and Forest of Dean. The River Wye has a considerable reputation with anglers.

The town is well served with gas, water and electricity services, although some further development of the latter service is needed.

A weekly newspaper of local news is printed and published in the town.

Catering for visitors forms an important trade especially during the second and third quarters of the year, but the town has a reputation as a winter resort, for the climate is equable and the winter months are generally mild and pleasant, favouring recovery from the debility which results from some diseases. Other industries located in the town are brewing, timber and joinery works, agricultural milling, oil refining and printing.

POPULATION:-

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population was 5180. The population has shown tendency to increase within the post war years. The population of the census of 1911, was 4,713, and that of the 1931 census was 4,735.

The estimated population does not include the number of visitors who reside within the area for a short period throughout the year, this number appears to attain a maximum of about 1,000 persons during the months of July and August.

On the basis of the estimated population, the average number of persons per inhabited house was 3.63, and the average number of persons per acre was 0.15. The gross density of occupied dwellings per acre is 1.42, but this figure does not take into account the area of land unsuitable for building purposes. The net housing density is therefore somewhat higher.

The natural increase of population, that is the excess of live births over deaths is 25.

BIRTHS:-

The total number of live births registered as having occurred in the area was 91 (60 males and 31 females), giving a live birth rate of 17.6 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. The same figure for the year 1947 was 24.8, and the figure for the year 1948 for England and Wales is 17.9 per 1,000 population.

The number of illegitimate live births was 8 (6 males and 2 females), and this number represents 8.8% of the total live births. The number of illegitimate live births during 1947 was 10.

STILL BIRTHS:-

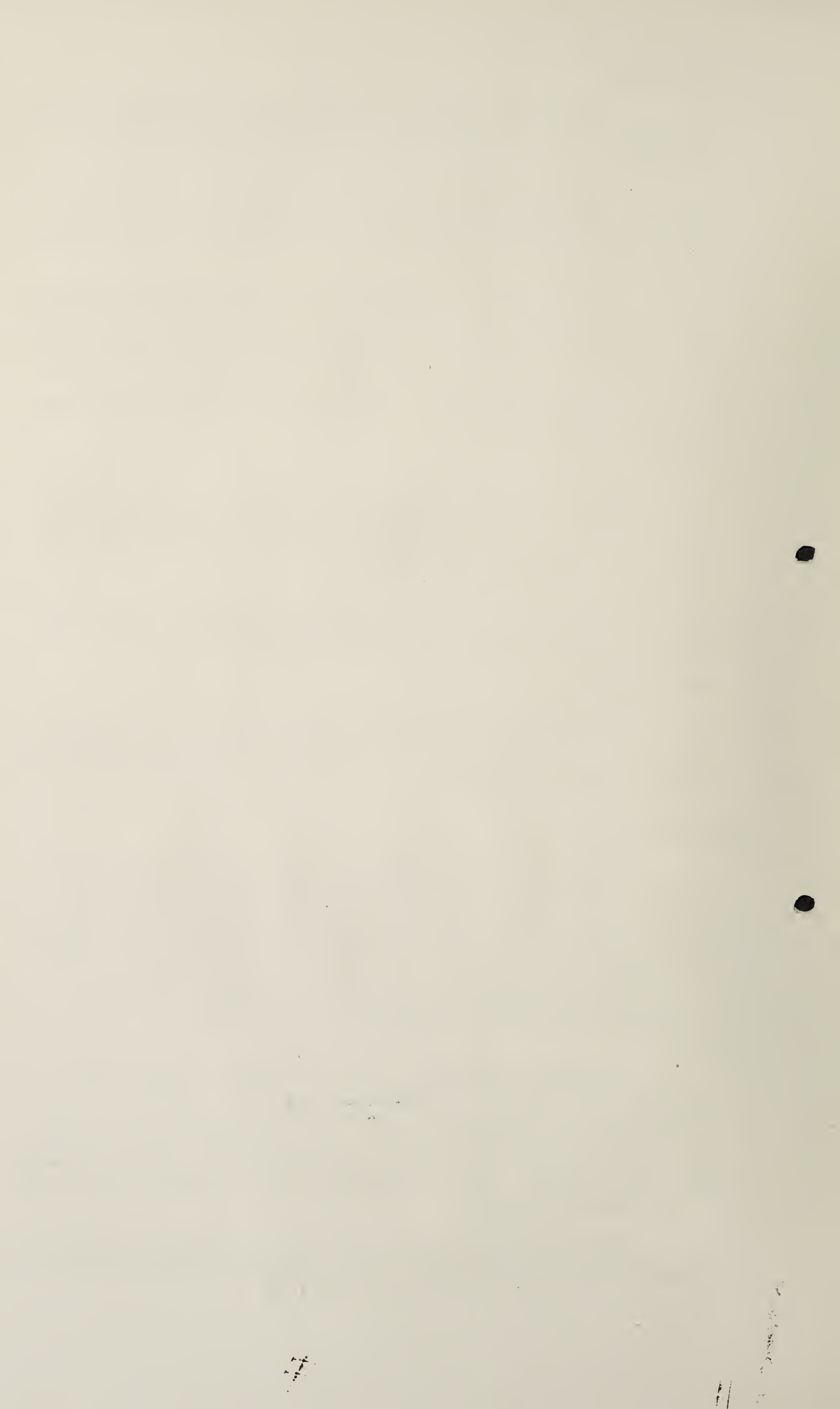
The number of still births registered was 2 (males), and the rate of still births per 1,000 of the estimated resident population was 0.39. The rate of England and Wales for the year was 0.42 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

DEATHS:-

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the Urban District was 66, there being 36 deaths of male persons and 30 deaths of females. This figure is obtained after deducting the deaths of non-residents and adding the deaths of residents who died outside of the District. This gives a crude death rate of 12.7 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. The death rate for England and Wales for the year 1948 was 10.8 per 1,000 population. It is not possible at the present time to give a corrected death rate. The difference between the rates is probably due to a significant degree to the age distribution of the population.

It will be noticed that the number of males who died during the year is somewhat greater than the number of deaths of females. In the table of causes of death given below, ^{the death rate} per 1000 of the estimated resident population is given according to cause. The commonest cause of death is heart disease which is the cause in 25 instances, this is usual each year. The second commonest cause of death was cancer, which was the cause of 8 ^{deaths} 6 males and 3 females. Disease of the bloodvessels accounted for the deaths of 2 males and 6 females.

The number of deaths due to heart disease was higher than 1947, when 16 persons died from this cause, the total number of deaths was less than the corresponding figure for the previous year. (75.)



CANCER DEATHS:-

There were 9 cancer deaths, this being less than in the previous year (14) but all forms of cancer remains as the second commonest cause of all death.

The death rate (all Forms) of cancer was 1.74 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, which compares with the corresponding rate of 2.9 for 1947.

DEATHS DUE TO NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Two male deaths were attributed to pneumonia which was the only notifiable infectious disease causing death. This experience was identical with that of 1947 and the death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population from this cause is 0.39.

DEATHS FROM DIARRHOEA UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE:-

There were no deaths of children under two years of age certified as due to diarrhoea. The death rate from this cause for England and Wales is 3.3 per 1000 live births.

TUBERCULOSIS

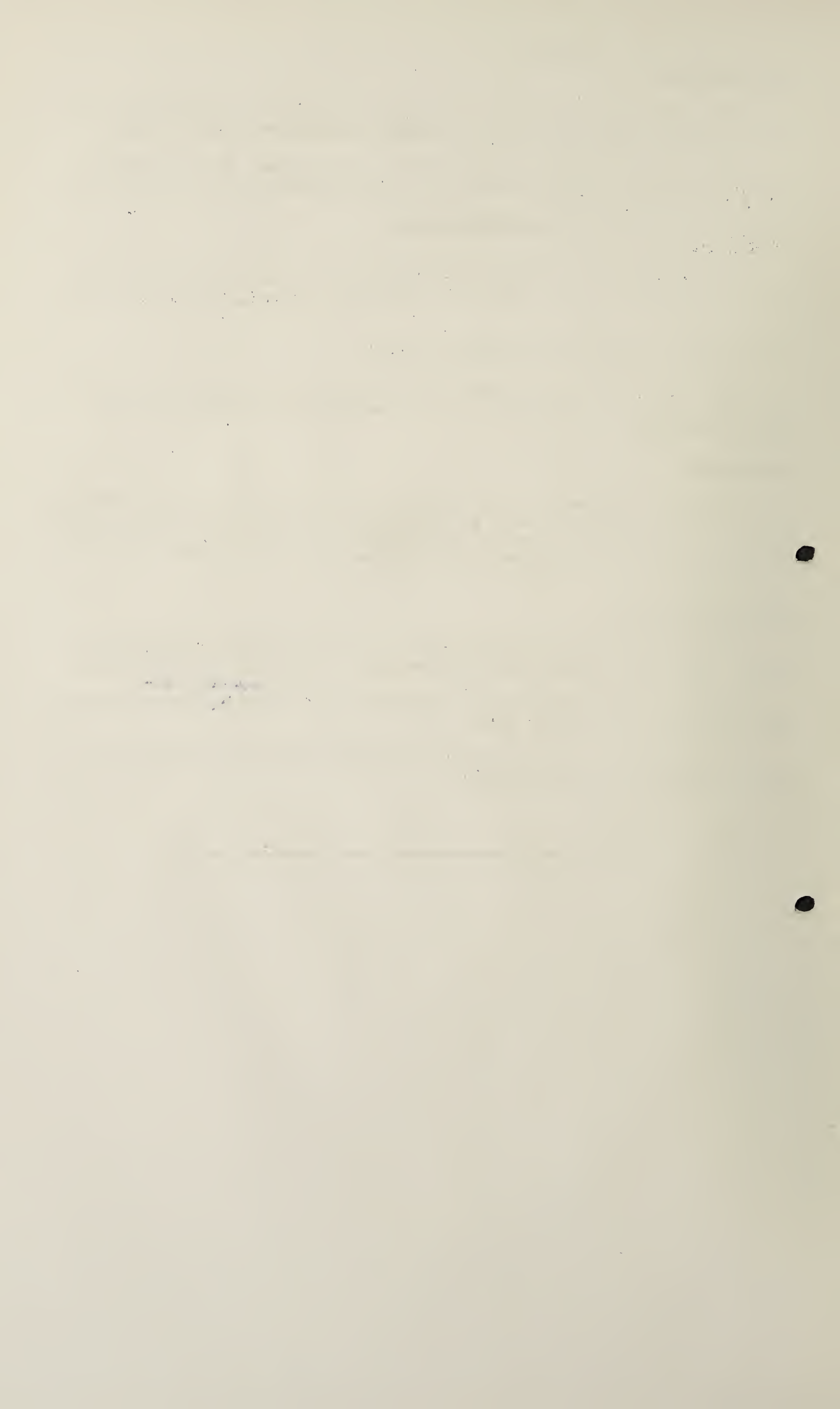
Pulmonary tuberculosis caused the death of 1 person (male), whilst other forms of the disease gave rise to one further death. The total number of deaths arising as a result of all forms of tuberculosis was therefore 2, and the death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population from all forms of the disease is 0.39.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 5, 3 males and 2 females. the number of illegitimate infants dying included in this total was 2.

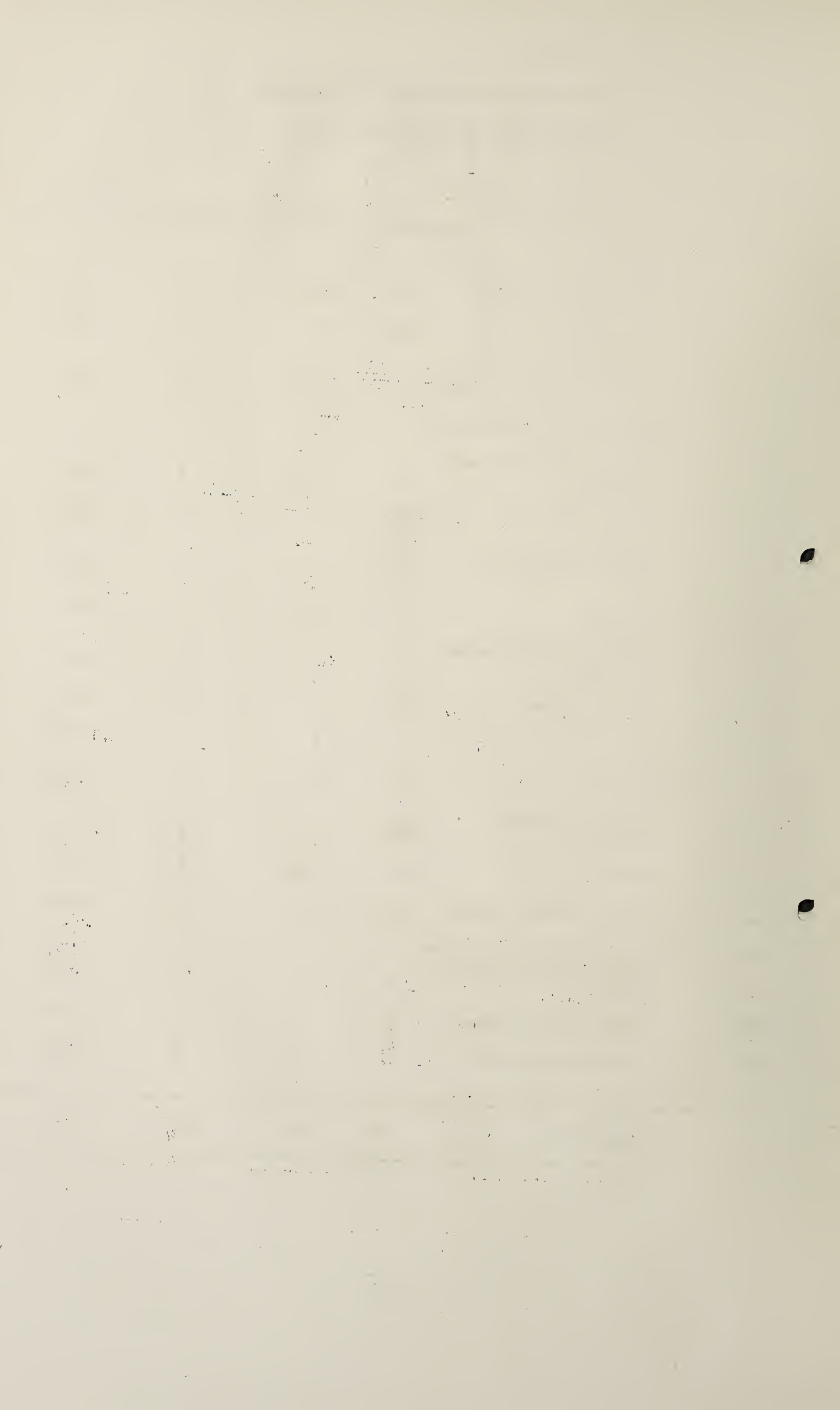
The death rate per 1000 births is therefore 55.0 which ^{COMPARES WITH} ~~is~~ the rate for the year for England and Wales of 34.0

The higher rate is due to the fact that live births in 1947 numbered 121 against 91 in the year under review.



ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL 1948TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH FOR 1948

Reg-Gen's Heading Number	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Persons	Rate per 1000 of the Popn.
6.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.	1	Nil	1	0.19
7.	Other forms of T.B.	Nil	1	1	0.19
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and oesophagus (males)	1	Nil	1	0.49
	Cancer of Uterus (Females)				
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	Nil	1	0.19
15.	Cancer of Breast	Nil	1	1	0.19
16.	Cancer of all other sites.	4	2	6	1.16
17.	Diabetes	1	Nil	1	0.19
18.	Extra cranial vascular diseases.	2	6	8	1.54
19.	Heart diseases.	16	9	25	4.83
21.	Bronchitis	1	1	2	0.39
22.	Pneumonia	2	Nil	2	0.39
23.	Other respiratory diseases.	Nil	1	1	0.19
28.	Nephritis	1	Nil	1	0.19
30.	Other Maternal Causes	Nil	1	1	0.19
32.	Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile diseases	1	2	3	0.58
33.	Other violent causes.	3	1	4	0.77
36.	All other causes.	2	5	7	1.35
ALL CAUSES		36	30	66	12.7



SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:-

LABORATORY FACILITIES:-

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Offices, Bath Street, Hereford, continued to provide facilities for the usual clinical pathological investigations, the examination of water supplies and the bacteriological examination of milk and other foods.

The following table gives the number and nature of the examinations carried out by the Laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

<u>Specimens Examined.</u>							
Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sputa	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Urine	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blood	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Milk Containers		...	...	...	...	...	5
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Ice Cream		...	...	...	...	...	7
Brawn	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Roquefort Cheese		...	...	...	...	...	2
Water (Bacteriological)	...	...	...	...	...	...	22

AMBULANCE SERVICE:-

The existing ambulance facilities remained unchanged until 5th July (the appointed day under the National Health Service Act, 1946) when ambulance services were provided by the Local Health Authority for the inhabitants of the area.

PUBLIC MORTUARY:-

A public mortuary is provided by the Council, and managed by the Surveyor. During the year bodies were received from the Urban District and from without the boundary. Towards the end of the year, the Council gave instructions to the Surveyor to carry out certain minor alterations to the structure. The mortuary was well conducted and kept in a very satisfactory state throughout the year. The number of bodies received from within the Urban District boundary was three, whilst thirteen were received from other localities.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD:-

There were four interments in the Council's Cemetery at Tudorville during the year.

One burial was carried out by the Local Authority under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act. 1948

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES:-

Public Conveniences are provided by the Council in the centre of the town in the Crofts, and in Wilton Road. These were well maintained throughout the year. The Council gave consideration to the provision of additional conveniences and two sites were selected.

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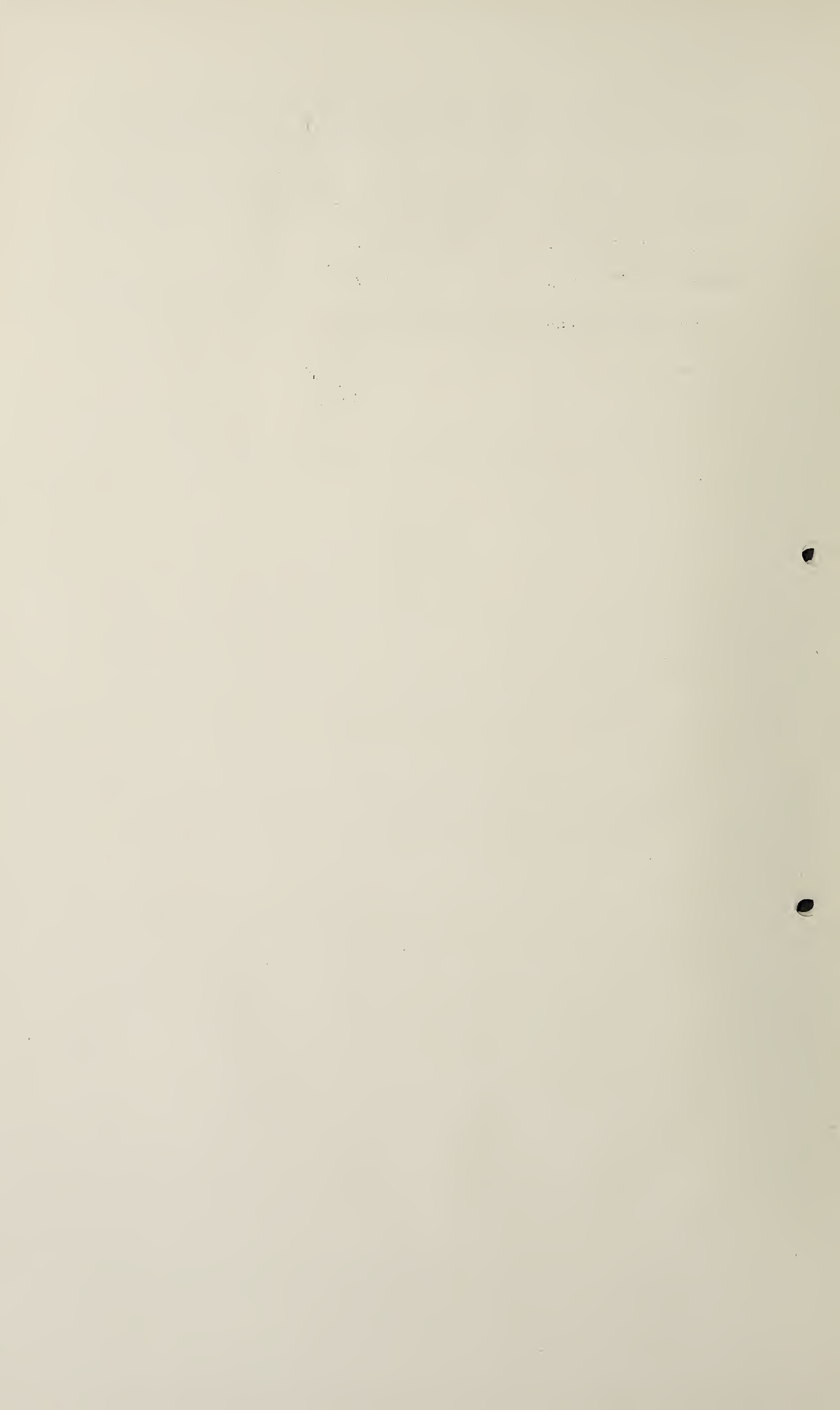
HOSPITALS:-

The Ross Cottage Hospital, situated in Gloucester Road, is a voluntary hospital of 16 beds and receives medical and surgical cases. The hospital is provided with an X-ray apparatus and a surgical operating theatre.

The Ross Public Assistance Institution has beds for chronic sick of both sexes, and a small maternity ward. These hospitals vested in the Regional Hospital Board on the appointed day, the Public Assistance Institution being renamed Alton Street Hospital.

NURSING HOMES:-

One small private maternity home, the Somerville Nursing Home, was available for maternity and medical cases.



SECTION C: - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:-

WATER:-

I am indebted to Col. N. Blake, manager of the Ross Water Undertaking, for the following information pertaining to the water supplies of the area.

"The mains of the Ross Water Undertaking provide a constant supply of potable water throughout the District. This water is pumped from boreholes in the old red sandstone at the Alton Court Water Works. In part of the District, the Water Undertaking provides, in addition, a River Water supply which is valuable for boiler and other industrial purposes, on account of its low hardness content of 6 - 7 parts per 100,000 against 26 parts per 100,000 in the Alton Court Supply.

The Alton Court Supply is of excellent quality for potable purposes, and as a further safeguard a continuous automatic chlorinator is inserted between the pumps and the reservoir.

The source of supply is quite adequate in quantity for all demands in the area of supply, and the pressure is satisfactory in all parts that can be supplied from the reservoir situated at 300 feet above ordnance datum.

About 30 houses on the Three Crosses Housing Estate were found to have an intermittent supply when supplied direct from our reservoir, but the Booster we installed a few years ago now ensures a satisfactory pressure supply during the twenty-four hours.

During the year, 80 yards of new water main, with a diameter of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " were laid in Brookfield Road, and 138 yards of 4" and 437 yards of 5" main were laid at the Three Crosses Estate.

The number of dwelling houses and shops within the Urban District supplied by the mains is 1,467, this figure does not include several garage, garden, trough and trade supplies. The majority of the supplies are carried into the houses, but for 75 dwellings the supply is by standpipes in yards.

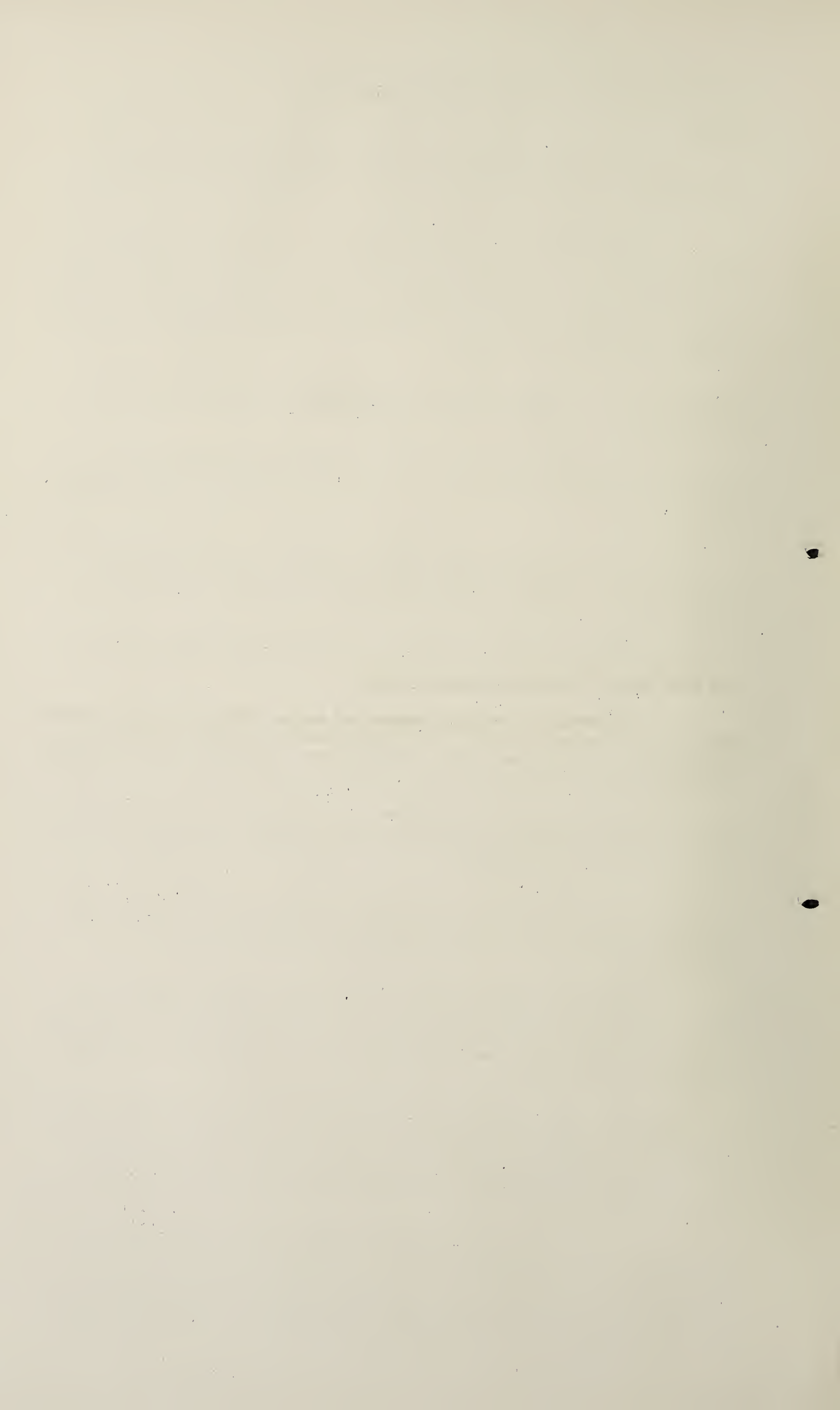
The average daily consumption of potable water for 1948 was 46.9 gallons per head including that used for trade purposes, this latter amounted to a consumption of 14.9 gallons per head giving a domestic consumption of 32.0 gallons per head per day.

Frequent samples are taken by the Public Health Department in addition to samples taken by the Ross Water Undertaking, and there is good co-operation between the Statutory Undertaking and the Officials of the Department.

Provision exists for samples to be taken from the rising main before the water is treated by chlorination. It is generally found that the water as it issues from the borehole given no growth on culture, and samples of water taken from the distribution mains are frequently sterile and only seldom give a plate count.

During the year, twenty-two samples of water were submitted by the Department to the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, for bacteriological examination. Eleven of the samples were taken at the water works before chlorination. In addition, two samples of water were examined for free chlorine content and the amount determined was found to be 0.5 parts in 1,000,000 parts of water.

All the samples of water both before and after chlorination taken during 1948 were satisfactory with the exception of one taken on the 19th October. This sample of the 19th October fell short of the high standard of the other samples and the Analyst advised increased chlorination as a result of this particular analysis. I am unable to account satisfactorily for the sample taken on the 19th October showing such variation from



the other analyses. It may have been caused by some pollution being washed down a dried up course of a spring that had some connection with the springs from which we were pumping. At the time the sample was taken, the pumping level was at its lowest for the year and there were some heavy falls of rain.

A very real danger to the purity of the source of our supply of water is the proximity of Huts 62/66 on the Camp Meadow Estate to the springs from which we pump. I called attention to the matter in my letter to the Council dated 13th March, 1947.

By the requisition of the land in question, the Water Undertaking lost control over the springs in that land. Some of these springs are connected to those from which we pump the Town's Water Supply, and the fall of the land from Huts 62 - 70 is towards these springs. If a typhoid carrier polluted that area it is possible for the Ross Water Supply to be polluted with typhoid which might cause a serious outbreak of this disease in the Ross District, if the storage and chlorination were not adequate to destroy this infection.

The Alton Court Supply does not appear to have any appreciable solvent action upon metals, but the water, in the presence of sunlight, does tend to favour algal growth. This is a common occurrence with water from deep sources".

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:-

Public sewers extend throughout the area, and the number of premises not connected is insignificant. Whilst part of the system is very old, the sewers function fairly satisfactorily with the exception of the lower Archenfield and Brookend portions, where overloading and flooding occurs during times of heavy rainfall, as the system is of the combined type, taking both storm water and foul water.

The sewage is passed into the River Wye without treatment by three separate outfalls. The present system is not entirely satisfactory and preliminary treatment should be provided to improve the appearance of the river near to the outfalls. It would appear that screening and settlement would be adequate treatment under present conditions.

About 50 yards of private sewer in Brookfield Road, constructed during 1947 and taking the drainage of 8 dwelling houses, was adopted by the Council as a public sewer under Section 17 of the Public Health Act, 1936. In addition a short extension was made to the public sewer in the Hopewalk to receive the drainage of two dwellings and abate nuisance. No new works for sewage disposal or extensions to existing works were carried out during the year.

All newly constructed drains are inspected and tested by the Sanitary Inspector. During the year, 42 new drains were constructed, of which 39 were in connection with dwelling houses. Altogether, 183 drain tests were made. Three existing drains were reconstructed or repaired.

RIVERS AND STREAMS:-

The River Wye is the important river of the area, as it forms part of the district boundary and the town lies on its eastern bank. In addition two small streams pass through the area, these are the Checkley Grove Brook and the Radhall Brook. Frequent inspections of the river and streams are regularly carried out, and periodic visits of inspection are made to known sources of possible pollution.

Five samples of river water were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination for trade effluent. One specimen only showed evidence of some pollution and this was followed up with the responsible party.

I am happy to report that there was no recurrence of the distressing floods in the lower part of the town during the year similar to the flooding which occurred in 1947.

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CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:-

The water closet is in use throughout the whole of the District. There are no privies or pail closets in existence. The Council has, very wisely, insisted upon the provision of water closets and this is one factor which has contributed to the low incidence of alimentary infections. The number of new water closets provided during the year was 22.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:-

The Council provides a weekly system of refuse collection throughout the whole of the area. During the summer months in the congested central parts of the town, more frequent collection is made where necessary. Collection is made by means of a motor vehicle of 40 cubic yard capacity, fitted with a detachable cover and mechanical tipping device, with sufficient power to haul a full load up any gradient within the area.

The collection is placed under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and disposal is made by means of controlled tipping at Deep Dean, Walford.

In addition to domestic refuse the Council undertakes the collection of certain types of trade refuse on payment.

There is some progress still required in the containers provided by private individuals for domestic refuse. Although some improvement has been made with regard to the provision of them.

Where necessary the Council can undertake the cleansing of privies and cesspools, but under normal conditions there is no demand for this work, privies and cesspools do not exist.

The Council carries out the cleansing of streets and public places, but difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour for this purpose is somewhat a limiting factor.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS:-

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public within the area.

SHOPS AND OFFICES:-

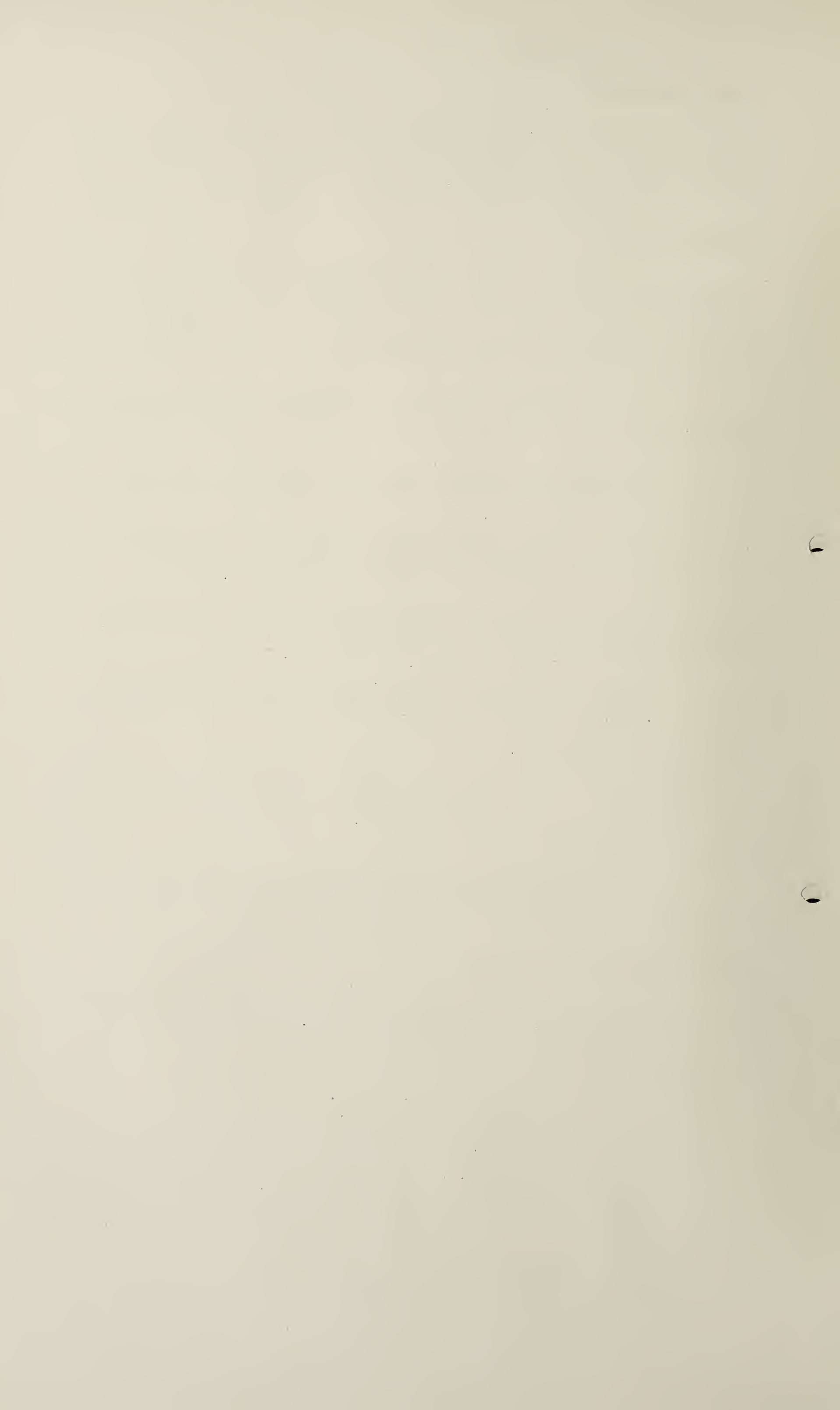
No action was necessary during the year under provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, or under the Public Health Act, 1936, with regard to any shops.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:-

I am indebted to Mr. R.H. Shaw Batchford, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement furnished under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Inspections:-

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	8
Ashbins & Ashpits	...	...	...	...	23
Backhouses	...	...	...	...	14
Caravans	...	...	...	...	8
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	10
Cowsheds & Dairies	...	...	...	...	32
Drainage	...	...	...	...	217
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	163
Filthy & Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	10
Factories (without mechanical power).	...	...	...	...	78
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	350



Inspections (contd.):

Hotel Kitchens & Restaurants	...	...	...	18
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	...	...	36
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	1
Nuisances	...	...	...	1
Outworkers Premises	...	...	...	3
Rats & Mice Act	...	...	...	80
Schools	...	...	...	4
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	3
Unsound Food	...	...	...	150
Water Supply	...	...	...	20
Housing (Other)	...	...	...	290

Notices Issued:

Informal	...	...	...	35
Statutory under other Acts	...	...	...	8

Summary of Defects Remedied:

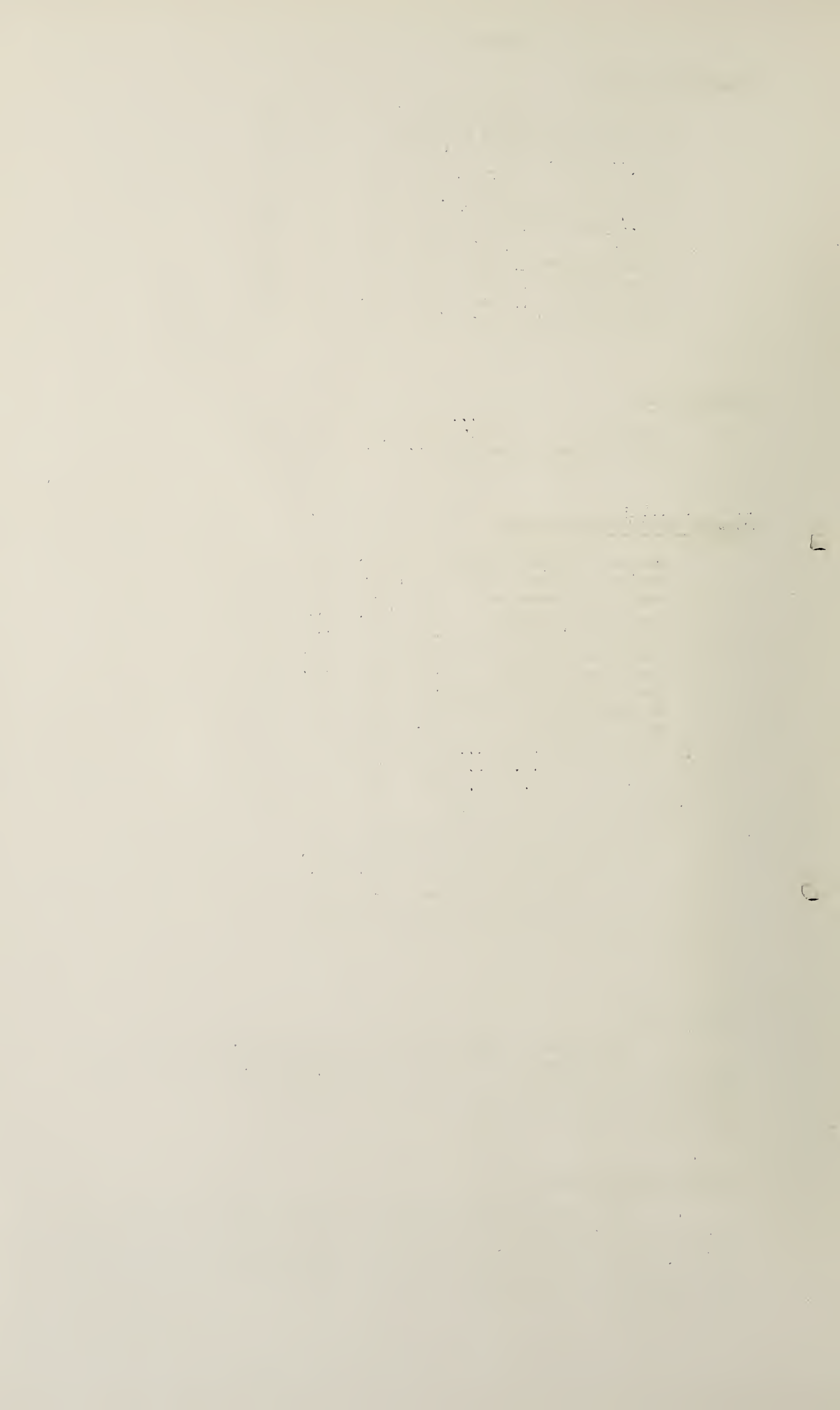
Drains & Gullies Cleared	...	...	...	6
Drains Repaired	...	...	...	4
Drains Reconstructed	...	...	...	3
New Drains Provided	...	...	...	1
Closets Repaired	...	...	...	2
Inspection Chambers Repaired	...	...	...	1
New Sinks Provided	...	...	...	3
Water Supplies Provided	...	...	...	1
Sanitary Fittings Provided	...	...	...	2
Paving Repaired	...	...	...	6
Disinfections after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	5
Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds & Dairies Improved	...	...	...	1
Defective Floors Repaired	...	...	...	5
Defective Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	10
Defective Eaves Gutters Repaired	...	...	...	7
Rain Water Pipes Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	7
Defective Brickwork Repaired	...	...	...	15
Defective Coppers Remedied	...	...	...	3
Filthy & Verminous Premises Cleansed	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous Defects Remedied	...	...	...	1

CAMPING SITES:

The number of sites used for camping purposes within the area was 7, and licenses were issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, with regard to three of these sites. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers in the area at one time did not exceed 60 persons.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES:

Two common lodging houses are registered with the Local Authority and continued in use throughout the year. The condition of the premises continues to be fairly satisfactory, but difficulties in the supply of bedding etc., have caused some deterioration in standards as when compared with conditions prevailing immediately before the outbreak of War in 1939.



Returns from the keepers show the houses occupied 8873 times during the year. No cases of disease occurred in these premises.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:-

Four private houses were found to be infested with bed bugs, no Council dwellings were found to be so infested. The tenants of two of these dwellings were moved into Council houses, and the Council adopted its usual course of action in such cases and had the furniture and belongings treated with hydrogen cyanide by a disinfection contractor before the tenancy was commenced. With regard to the remaining houses, the Sanitary Inspector carried out a disinfection by means of a spray containing the insecticide known as D.D.T.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937:-

At the end of the year, there were 64 factories with mechanical power and 2 without mechanical power registered with the Local Authority. In the course of the year, 428 inspections of these premises were made.

One defect was discovered and was remedied by informal action. This defect arose through the absence of a properly ventilated intervening space in connection with a water closet.

OUTWORKERS:-

Three outworkers are registered with the Local Authority, all engaged in the manufacture of wearing apparel. Three inspections of these premises were made during the year and conditions were found to be completely satisfactory. No cases of infectious disease occurred on these premises.

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SECTION D. - HOUSING:-

The progress in the Council's first post war building scheme at Three Crosses greatly improved during the year, and 21 dwellings were completed and occupied before the end of the year. In addition eight dwellings were completed under private contracts for individual owners, so that the total number of dwelling houses completed and occupied was 32. This represents quite good progress when the abnormal conditions prevailing in the building industry at the present time are taken into consideration. It is likely that the rate or progress of the Council's scheme will show a very satisfactory increase during the present year as 26 Council dwellings were under construction but incomplete on 31st December, whilst three dwellings for private owners were awaiting completion on this date.

The new dwellings are of an excellent type and are remarkably well arranged. However, the present high cost of building is reflected in the higher rents which tenants are called upon to pay. Whilst the new dwellings provide better accommodation than is provided in the Council's pre-war schemes, and consequently require a higher rent, nevertheless some absolute increase of rent as a result of increased cost is apparent.

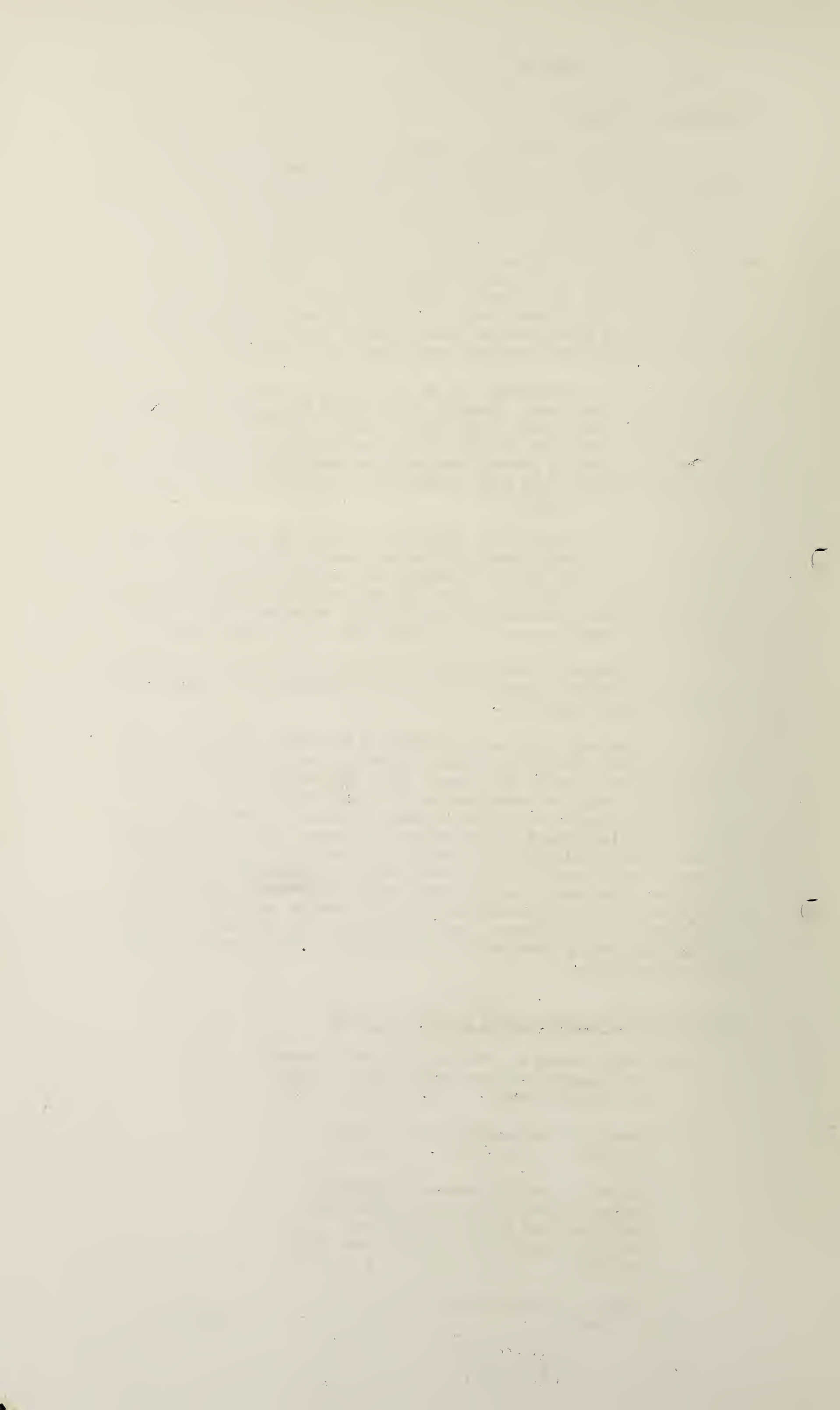
The poorer type of dwelling houses in the town continues to show slow but steady deterioration in a number of respects. This is due to a number of complex factors, the freezing of rent, the absence of repair facilities during the War and the continuous increase in building costs, and shortage of materials are some of the factors which have prevented owners from keeping pace with delapidations.

Thirty-five dwellings were found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation and these were subsequently rendered fit by action of the Department.

However, the Council continued to manage the Camp Meadow Estate throughout the year. This consists of temporary buildings in the former wartime Drill Hall Camp. These buildings are of various types, all of temporary construction and were used during wartime for accommodating troops. The life of these buildings is very well advanced and significant deterioration continues. The costs of maintenance of these buildings will continue to be high, but the estate has been of some benefit in relieving temporarily difficult housing conditions. The Estate has been very well managed, and improvements and repairs have been carried out so as to provide tolerable accommodation for smaller families. During the year 6 of the larger buildings were divided and by this device 6 additional families were provided with accommodation.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:-

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	35
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	90
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil



3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 5
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation 5

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 27

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:-

1. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-
 - (a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
 - (b) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
 - (i) by owners Nil
 - (ii) by Local Authority in default of owners Nil
2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
 - (a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 8
 - (b) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
 - (i) by owners 3
 - (ii) by Local Authority in default of owners Nil
3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-
 - (a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
 - (b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 1
4. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
 - (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
 - (b) Number of separate tenement or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING:-

1.	(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	6
	(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	13
	(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	56
2.		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	5
3.	(a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	19
	(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	124
		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

OVERCROWDING:-

The position as regards overcrowding appears to have improved somewhat during the year. In the early months some increase in overcrowding did take place, but as a result of new dwellings becoming available for tenants, a certain amount of movement occurred and only six dwellings, housing 13 families, were known to be over crowded at the end of the year. Whilst it would be unwise to regard this figure as absolutely accurate, it is in harmony with the known fact that a significant improvement did take place in overcrowding, within the last six months of the year.

SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK:-

At the end of the year, there were 5 wholesale purveyors, and 9 retail purveyors of milk registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. Cowsheds and dairies were regularly inspected, 12, such inspections having been made. No action was taken under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. All the registered premises are connected to the water mains and have an abundant supply of water of potable quality.

About one third of the milk sold by retail within the area appears to receive heat treatment. One supplementary license for the sale of pasteurised milk was issued by the Council during the year. There are no sterilisation plants within the area.

Thirteen samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, and all were found to be satisfactory. Six of these samples were of milk sold under the special designation of "Pasteurised Milk". In addition, five churn washings were sent for bacteriological examination and two of these showed that the cleansing of these containers was not being carried out with the necessary care. Informal action secured the necessary improvement.

There was no evidence at any time during the year that the consumption of milk had caused any acute disease.

ICE CREAM:-

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of ice cream was 5, and 12 premises were registered for the storage and sale of this product. This food, is very popular and has a considerable sale. Twelve samples of ice cream offered for sale within the District were submitted for bacteriological examination and found to be reasonably satisfactory. The number of inspections of premises used for manufacture, storage, or sale was 36. There was no evidence that the consumption of ice cream produced any acute infectious disease.

WATER CRESS:-

No special action by the Department was necessary in connection with the sale of this foodstuff.

SHELL FISH:-

The sale of shell fish within the area is very small, mussels have never been popular and oysters are an expensive food at the present time. A small sale of cooked and salted cockles, obtained from Newport, appears to form the bulk of the trade in this class of fish at the present time. Cooked cockles in sealed glass jars are occasionally sold. No action by the Department was necessary in connection with the sale of shell fish.

MEAT:-

There are no slaughter houses in regular operation within the Urban District boundary at the present time; but one slaughter-house is licensed and is used occasionally. With this single exception all slaughtering is carried out in the Municipal Abattoir at Hereford. The Sanitary Inspector assists with the meat inspection at the Abattoir and attended on 9 occasions.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned:-

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)					8
Number inspected					8
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned					
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned					
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis					
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses con- demned					
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned					
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis					

OTHER FOODS:-

Regular inspection of food exposed for sale in shops and markets is made by the Sanitary Inspector and the following list gives the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

7 lbs.	...	...	...	...	Prunes
75 "	...	...	...	...	Cooking Fat.
92 "	...	...	...	...	Beef.
5 "	...	...	...	...	Lamb.
90 "	...	...	...	...	Corned Beef.
24 "	...	...	...	...	Camembert Cheese.
248 "	...	...	...	...	Onions.
6 "	...	...	...	...	Cucumbers.
21 "	...	...	...	...	Tomatoes.
6 "	...	...	...	...	Tongue.
20 "	...	...	...	...	Butter.
211 Pkts.	...	...	...	...	Cheese.
48 "	...	...	...	...	Barley.
44 Stones	...	...	...	...	Fish.
477 Tins	...	...	...	...	Miscellaneous Foodstuffs.
144	...	...	...	...	Fish Cakes.

FOOD POISONING:-

One case of suspected food poisoning was notified in a patient residing within the District. Three other cases were notified at the same time in the adjacent Rural District. All the cases occurred in separate households, and the same medical practitioner attended the four households. The symptoms common to all cases were, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain, and the four patients had consumed Rocquefort cheese and subsequently developed symptoms. As this cheese is not acceptable to everyone, this fact provided some indication that there seemed to be some association between consumption of the cheese and the development of symptoms, as those persons in the affected households who did not eat the cheese developed no symptoms. However, it was also found that some members of the households who consumed the outer portions of the cheese did not develop symptoms whilst those who did suffer had taken rather liberal portions of the centre of the cheese.

Further inquiry showed that all patients had consumed part of the same cheese, it was the only one on sale in the District at that time. A portion of the cheese was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, for bacterial examination and the then Director, Dr. R. Ewart Jones, was asked to assist in the investigations. Unfortunately, no specimens of stools were obtained from the patients, but other specimens of Rocquefort cheese of subsequent deliveries to this District and other parts of the County were submitted for examination. Dr. R. Ewart Jones, made a very thorough investigation and devoted much time to providing a scientific report. From this, I think that certain conclusions can be made.

First, some toxic factor seemed to be associated with the central portion of one particular cheese. Whilst a very large number of streptococci were constantly present in this cheese, these cannot be identified, but no organisms of the Salmonella or Dysentery groups were isolated. It is possible that if the toxin were bacterial in nature the cheese contained an entero-toxin, formed by an organism in the aqueous phase of the manufacture which was destroyed by the addition of salt, or may be that the ingestion of large numbers of bacteria, apparently non-pathogenic, may give rise to symptoms in susceptible persons.

SECTION F. - PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE:-

The total number of notifications of communicable disease received during the year was 51, one being in respect of suspected food poisoning. The incidence of infectious disease was slightly less than in the previous year when the total number of notifications was 60. The number of notifications was below the average of the last four years. There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease at any period of the year.

WHOOPING COUGH:-

This disease was responsible for 21 notifications which represents a low incidence of infection. The disease appeared in the District in the second quarter and continued to occur throughout the third quarter when it disappeared. With one single exception all the patients were children under ten years of age, with maximum incidence in the 5 - 10 years age group. The disease appears to have been of average severity, but somewhat less prevalent than in the previous year when 27 cases were notified.

SCARLET FEVER:-

The incidence of scarlet fever was very low, only one notification being received. The incidence of scarlet fever has fallen steadily since 1946 when 11 cases were notified, and the incidence in 1948 appears to be the lowest ever recorded. This disease has shown great modifications during the last half century and in general is a mild disorder.

ERYSIPELAS:-

This disease showed an increase in notification when compared with the previous year when only one case was notified. The six patients fell into various age groups and one case was very severe. Fortunately the treatment has greatly improved during recent years.

PNEUMONIA:-

Only four notifications were received respecting pneumonia.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable disease according to sex in each quarter:-

Disease.	CONFIRMED CASES ACCORDING TO QUARTERS.							
	1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	2	5	8	4	-	2
Measles	3	3	5	6	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	1	-	-	1	1	1	2	-
Food Poisoning	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All diseases	6	5	8	13	9	5	2	3

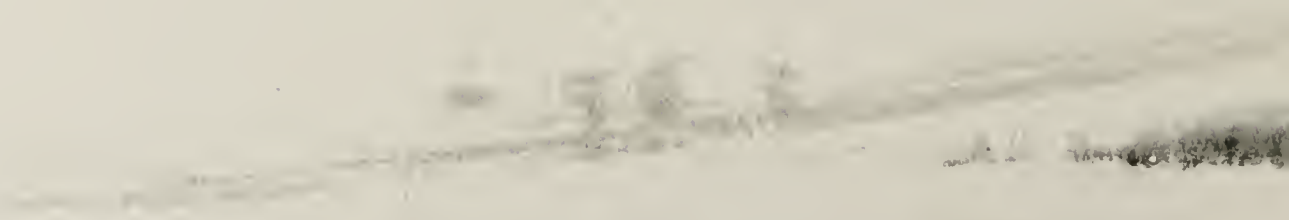
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The table below gives the incidence of notifiable disease in various age groups:-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE.												
Disease.	Under											
	1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+ Totals
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	2	2	-	1	5	10	-	-	1	-	-	21
Measles	-	3	1	1	1	10	-	-	1	-	-	17
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	3
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
All Diseases	3	5	1	2	6	22	2	-	3	1	2	51

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES:-

Three school children were known to have suffered fromumps and a similar number from chicken pox. Umps and pox have been somewhat prevalent.

The District continued to be free from typhoid, infantile paralysis, cerebro-spinal fever and the other more serious infectious diseases.

The efficiency of notification is good, as a result of the co-operation of the medical practitioners, and the accuracy of diagnosis is very satisfactory.

I take this opportunity to express my thanks to the medical practitioners of the area for their willing co-operation in all matters relating to the public health.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:-

This preventive work is now transferred to the County Council and figures supplied by the County medical Officer show that 102 children under 15 years of age residing within the area completed courses of prophylactic injections and 47 received reinforcement injections.

SCABIES:-

During the year, no cases of scabies were brought to the notice of the Department.

TUBERCULOSIS:-

At the beginning of the year there were 57 cases on the Register, 29 pulmonary and 28 non-pulmonary. During the year, 9 cases were added to the Register, 8 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary, of these 6 pulmonary were with respect to new cases. Twelve cases were removed from the Register, 5 pulmonary and 7 non-pulmonary. At the end of the year therefore, 54 cases remained on the Register, 32 pulmonary and 22 non-pulmonary.



TUBERCULOSIS (Contd.):NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.

Age periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3+	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
4+	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
8+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

County Observatory,
Ross-on-Wye.

ANNUAL METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

L FOR 1948

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE ABOVE NORMAL.

SUNNIEST YEAR SINCE 1913.

The year 1948 exhibited several features of outstanding meteorological interest.

In the matter of sunshine, it was the brightest year since 1913, and the Spring was the sunniest on record. 633½ hours being registered. Of this total May had 275½ hours, the highest ever registered during that month. In a period of 4 days, 56 hours were recorded, and on the 18th 15 hours. This is the earliest date on which 15 hours have ever occurred.

Another outstanding month was December, its total of 78 hours being a new high record for the month, and incidentally it placed Ross-on-Wye fifth on the list for the British Isles only four other places having a slightly higher total.

March and April both had large excesses of sunshine. On the other hand June and August were very deficient in sunshine, and June's brightest day had less than 11 hours. Never before has there been so small a duration for the brightest June day.

The summer was disappointing, and August, in particular was a bad month for harvesting owing to the frequent rainfall.

In regard to temperature, the year was a warm one, only the summer months being deficient in warmth. Towards the end of July occurred the Hottest weather of the year, when shade temperature exceeded 85 degs. on four days, reaching a higher level than at any time during 1947.

The highest reading was 89 degs. on July 29th. At many places temperatures exceeded 90 degs.

Of the individual months March was the most outstanding for excess warmth, and history was made when a shade temperature of 70 degs. was registered on the 9th, which was 15 days earlier than any previous occasion, of 70 degs. in the year. January too, was unusually mild.

The cool unsettled August produced no higher reading than 72 degs. the lowest maximum value for the month since 1922.

The coldest day of the year was December 26th when the highest reading was only 28 degs. following the coldest night of the year.

Rainfall exceeded normal by nearly 2½ inches. The Year's rain duration was 2405 hours, the highest monthly durations being in January, 85½ hours; December, 57½ hours; and May 63½ hours.

July and February were the driest months.

The only SNOWFALL of the year was experienced towards the end of February.

No "absolute drought" was recorded the longest rain free period- 14 days in September- falling short by one day to qualify as an "absolute drought". The Year was memorable for the brilliant weather at Easter and Whitsun.

Frederick J. Parsons
METEOROLOGICAL OFFICER

TABLE 1 SHADE TEMPERATURES (IN DEGREES FAHRT.)

MONTH	MEAN 1948	DIFF FROM NORMAL	HIGHEST	DATE	LOWEST	
JAN	43.7	+4.3	56	13	29	23
FEB.	41.1	+1.1	56	13	22	21
MAR.	47.7	+5.1	70	9	29	6
APR.	48.3	+1.2	68	27	30	5
MAY.	52.5	-0.8	76	18	33	3
JUN.	57.7	-0.9	76	14	44	99
JUL.	61.1	-0.8	89	29	40	17
AUG.	59.8	-1.0	72	7	44	27
SEP.	58.2	+1.6	73	5	33	29
OCT.	50.9	+1.4	68	2	26	27
NOV.	47.1	+3.5	61	2	25	9
DEC.	43.2	+2.9	58	3	21	26
MEAN	50.9	+1.4	89	July 29	21	DEC 26

TABLE 2 EARTH TEMPERATURES (IN DEGREES FAHRT.)

MONTH	AT ONE FOOT	DIFF FROM NORMAL	AT 4 FEET	DIFF FROM NORMAL	LOWEST ON GRASS	DATE	NO. OF HOURS AT OR GROUND FROST
JAN	42.1	+22	45.4	+1.7	20	23	12
FEB.	41.6	+1.9	44.5	+1.7	19	21	13
MAR.	45.1	+3.0	45.0	+1.5	21	28	15
APR.	48.3	+1.2	47.7	+1.4	22	5	12
MAY.	54.9	+1.0	52.4	+1.8	24	3	6
JUN.	58.9	-1.4	55.7	-0.1	35	9	6
JUL.	60.7	-2.6	57.8	-1.4	31	17	0
AUG.	61.6	-0.8	59.8	-0.3	36	19	2
SEP.	59.3	+0.8	58.8	-0.1	26	22	7
OCT.	53.3	+1.8	55.8	+0.1	19	27	9
NOV.	47.9	+3.1	51.1	+1.4	20	9	12
DEC.	44.2	+3.4	48.0	+2.5	15	26	
MEAN	51.5	+1.3	51.9	+0.9	15	Dec 26	90

TABLE 3 DURATION OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE

(IN HOURS AND 10THS)

MONTH	TOTAL 1948	DIFF FROM NORMAL	BEST DAYS RECORD	DATE	NUMBER OF SUNLESS DAYS
JAN.	43.6	-10.3	6.0	22	15
FEB.	86.5	+119.2	8.3	26	6
MAR.	166.9	+52.9	10.8	23	4
APR.	193.7	+49.5	13.1	16	0
MAY.	273.2	+88.4	15.0	18	2
JUN.	163.1	-43.4	10.9	14	0
JUL.	188.0	+6.2	13.5	29	0
AUG.	125.8	-45.9	12.3	29	5
SEP.	146.6	+9.2	10.3	21	1
OCT.	100.6	+3.6	10.2	2	3
NOV.	59.4	-2.2	7.3	5	10
DEC.	78.1	+38.3	7.1	4	9
YEAR	1625.5	+145.5	15.0	May 18th	55

TABLE 4 RAINFALL

24 HOURS TO 9 a.m. Given in inches.

MONTH	TOTAL 1948	DIFF FROM NORMAL	GREATEST FALL IN ONE DAY	DATE	NUMBER OF RAIN DAYS .005 of inch and up.
JAN.	4.37	+1.83	.50	10	23
FEB.	.88	-1.14	.29	1	11
MAR.	1.38	-0.99	.60	31	7
APR.	2.57	+0.64	.43	17	14
MAY.	3.66	+1.55	1.01	26	11
JUN.	1.69	-0.23	.46	18	17
JUL.	.70	-1.57	.23	17	7
AUG.	3.44	+0.92	.97	2	17
SEP.	2.51	+0.39	1.03	12	9
OCT.	3.14	-0.05	.82	17	14
NOV.	1.83	-0.84	.82	9	14
DEC.	4.65	+1.92	.97	30	19
YEAR	30.82	+2.43	1.03	Sept 12th	163

